



Eddie A. Perez  
Mayor

**-----MEDIA RELEASE-----**

**MAYOR PEREZ SAYS:  
“HARTFORD MEANS BUSINESS”**

(January 10, 2006)--- Mayor Eddie Perez has outlined his plans to make Hartford more competitive in 2006. The Mayor made his remarks at the “Rising Star Breakfast” at the Hilton Hartford Hotel in Downtown Hartford, presented by the MetroHartford Alliance.

Mayor Perez says, “Hartford means business. The Capital City has made such tremendous progress in the areas of growth, revitalization, and affordability in 2005, that we captured national headlines. Now we must work to build on that strong foundation and attract even more jobs.”

Mayor Perez illustrated how Hartford:

1. Is open for business, thanks to the Convention Center and two luxury hotels
2. Will be home to more condominiums, retail, shops, and restaurants in 2006
3. Is the third most improved city in the nation in crime fighting with 1559 fewer crimes in 2005 than in 2004
4. Is adding more police on the streets and strengthening taskforces to get violent criminals off the streets
5. Is proposing a plan for eliminating the 15% city surtax on corporate property while providing an incentive for homeownership
6. Continues to push the Higher Education Initiative to increase the number of Hartford youngsters graduating from college
7. Is planning suitable sites for new corporate and business growth in partnership with the MetroHartford Alliance
8. Is going “wireless” neighborhood-by-neighborhood starting this spring in order to close the digital divide and make Hartford the most “connected” city in New England
9. Is pushing to retain and grow high-paying jobs like insurance and finance
10. Is challenging the business community to support housing and educational goals and financially support the effort to bring the NHL back to our great city.

Mayor Perez says, “The phrase “Hartford Means Business” transcends the business community. This is about the cycle of empowerment: educating our youth so that they can compete for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and attaining the financial stability to become homeowners. That reinvestment in the community produces safe and vibrant neighborhoods that attract economic development. As the cycle continues, Hartford will only get stronger, and its star will rise even higher.”